



News Release

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Contacts:	Carolyn Cox , Office of Drinking Water	360-236-3162
	Julie Graham, Communications Office	360-236-4022
	Connie Beauvais, Crescent Water Association	360-928-3128

Clallam County: Crescent Water customers urged to boil tap water

OLYMPIA — A boil-water advisory was issued today because *E. coli* was detected in water samples from the Crescent Water Association's system. This advisory affects about 900 homes and businesses in the community of Joyce, 22 miles west of Port Angeles, near Lake Crescent.

The potentially harmful bacteria were detected in a routine monitoring sample. Follow-up testing confirmed *E. coli* in the water. *E. coli* can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with weak immune systems. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

Until follow-up test results are satisfactory, the Department of Health recommends that residents boil tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, dishwashing, preparing food, and making ice. Water should be boiled for one minute and allowed to cool before use.

State health officials are working with the water system to help determine the source of contamination and resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

The water system staff has increased chlorine levels in an effort to eliminate the bacteria.

"We are taking multiple samples from all over the system to try to isolate the problem," said Connie Beauvais, Crescent's water system operator. Customers will be notified when the advisory is lifted. Crescent Water Association customers who have questions may call 360-928-3128.

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